



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 August 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Aviation Now reports California may soon become the first state with its own perimeter security system to check for illicit nuclear material coming by truck from other states. (See item [10](#))
- Government Computer News reports Department of Defense officials are investigating a recent incident where hackers broke into a Navy system and gained access to 13,000 Navy purchase cards. (See item [19](#))
- eWEEK reports the XML Database in Oracle Corp.'s Oracle9i Database Release 2 has a set of potential buffer overflows that a smart attacker could exploit to cause a denial-of-service attack or to capture an active user session on Oracle9iM. (See item [20](#))
- Reuters reports police tightened security at the world university games in South Korea on Thursday, August 21, after a tip-off that Islamic radicals could launch a chemical weapons attack. (See item [23](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

August 21, SolarAccess.com — **Fuel cell–powered train is locomotive of the future. The first fuel cell–powered locomotive for military and commercial railway applications will be developed and demonstrated over the course of the five–year project costing \$12 million.** Based on electrochemistry rather than combustion, the solid–state fuel cells that power the locomotive will generate energy quietly, as well as efficiently, and produce zero emissions. The project is jointly funded and administered by the U.S. Army Tank–Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), and the National Automotive Center (NAC). The objectives of the project are to develop the fuel cell locomotive by retrofitting an Army diesel–electric locomotive with a fuel cell power plant, demonstrate the locomotive in an Army non–tactical application, and facilitate commercialization of fuel cell power for rail transportation.
Source: <http://www.solaraccess.com/news/story?storyid=4941>

2. *August 21, Dow Jones Business News* — **FirstEnergy cuts power to some industrial customers. FirstEnergy Corp. cut power to some of its industrial customers Thursday, August 21, and said it could implement rolling blackouts later if hot weather pushes electric demand above available supplies. The company is asking customers in northeast Ohio to conserve power for a second day, as the delayed restart of its largest power plant pinches the amount of power available to the company.** The company's 1,320–megawatt Perry nuclear reactor was holding at 11% capacity as operators repaired a malfunctioning piece of equipment. The unit had been scheduled to connect to the grid but it might not begin generating electricity until the weekend. The company said it has been purchasing electricity from the wholesale power market to replace some of the megawatts that Perry would normally provide.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/030821/1152000832_2.html

3. *August 21, Reuters* — **Lack of gas sets back Canada–U.S. pipeline. Disappointing results in the search for natural gas off Nova Scotia is holding back El Paso Corp. plans to build a giant \$1.6 billion pipeline stretching into the U.S. Northeast, El Paso said.** "We were optimistic that gas producers would discover gas last summer and that has not happened," according to an El Paso spokesperson. He added that El Paso was still working with environmental groups and fishing community for the roughly 1,000–mile (1,600–km) pipeline aimed at delivering about 1 billion cubic feet of gas a day from Nova Scotia to power plants and industrial gas users in the New York region. Nova Scotia authorities estimate the deep water region off the coast could contain 15 trillion to 40 trillion cubic feet of gas, but finding those reserves has been elusive.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030821/utilities_elpaso_pipeline_1.h tml

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *September 01, Wired Magazine* — **Upgradeable is new defense standard. When the Navy's new \$4.5 billion aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, sails off to duty later this year, it will be the world's biggest weapon, and, like most high tech equipment, it will be outdated almost immediately.** There's already something better in the works: a \$10 billion ship called the CVN 21, scheduled for delivery in the middle of the next decade. However, the Navy has a solution to ensure the USS Ronald Reagan will stay technologically current. **While the Navy's current 12 carriers can accommodate new technology, the Reagan is the Navy's first carrier explicitly built with future upgrades in mind, from gigabytes of extra network capacity to plug-and-play spaces for weapons and workstations.** Every two years, the Navy will have a chance to tweak the Reagan's configuration, and many advancements will trickle down from the CVN 21, whose technology is being developed with retrofitting the Reagan in mind. All this, plus the full overhaul every carrier gets on its 25th birthday, will give the Reagan a longer productive career.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.09/navy.html>

5. *August 21, Government Computer News* — **Air Force realigns acquisition management. Senior Air Force officials announced on Wednesday, August 20, that a reorganization of the service's acquisition management structure, including its command, control and combat support acquisition programs.** The reorganization is designed to streamline decision-making, speed the acquisition process and increase accountability, said Air Force secretary James Roche and chief of staff General John Jumper. The restructuring includes the Air Force's aircraft and weapons programs.

Source: http://gcen.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23218-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *August 21, vnunet.com* — **UK banks criticized for poor IT security. UK banks have been criticized for a "complacent" attitude towards some aspects of IT security. According to a survey by NTA Monitor, the financial sector has the worst record for router security compared to other sectors, and its use of firewalls is less effective than in other sectors.** The security consultant's Vertical Market Security Report 2003 found that 94 per cent of financial organizations tested had basic router flaws that could cause major disruption to online banking services. NTA Monitor also found that many firms' firewalls performed worse than in previous tests, with 31 per cent containing at least 10 flaws which left them open to a "considerable risk of malicious attack".

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/News/1143138>

7. *August 21, Bay City News (CA)* — **Police find large stash of counterfeit cash.** Police officers searched a driver during a routine traffic stop in San Francisco, CA, on Wednesday, August 20, and they allegedly discovered crystal methamphetamine, a glass pipe and several denominations of phony currency in his vehicle. Investigators soon determined that the money found on the suspect and in his car was counterfeit, and that ink on his hands linked him to the manufacturing of the money, according to police. **The discovery led detectives to the suspect's residence, where thousands of dollars in counterfeit bills, a color printer and printing ink used to make the fake cash were found, police said.** The Secret Service was

called in by police to assist in the investigation because of the size of the seizure.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/news/082103_nw_counterfeit_cash.html

8. *August 11, Federal Trade Commission* — **Nationwide credit repair operation to pay more than \$1.15 million in consumer redress.** One of the country's largest credit-repair operations has agreed to pay more than \$1.15 million in consumer redress to settle Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charges that it violated federal law. The settlement resolves charges leveled by the FTC against six Michigan-based defendants in a federal court complaint that was filed simultaneously with the settlement. **The Commission's complaint alleges that the defendants, who sell credit-repair services through a multilevel marketing organization, falsely claimed that they could remove derogatory information from consumers' credit reports, even if that information was accurate and not obsolete.** The defendants purported to do this through the use of a "one-of-a-kind" computer disk that they claimed could search and identify errors in the process used by the credit reporting agencies to enter negative items onto consumers' credit reports. The Commission's complaint alleges that the defendants' representations about the computer disk are false and deceptive. As part of the settlement, the defendants agreed that they would no longer make any claims about a computer disk or software program in marketing their credit-repair service to consumers.

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2003/08/nationwide.htm>

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Transportation Sector

9. *August 21, MSNBC News* — **At last, some good news for airlines. Delta is the latest airline to ease restrictions on non-refundable tickets. The carrier will allow passengers with non-refundable tickets to reschedule their trip for up to one year from the date of the original flight.** American and Continental announced similar changes earlier this week — a week that saw the industry getting good news for a change. **This has probably been the best of week of news out of the airline industry in the last year or so.** That doesn't mean the carriers are out of the woods, but they are enjoying some good news for a change. For example, July revenue per available seat mile was up 8.1 percent. That was well above the estimates of an increase of 4 to 6 percent. **One reason for the increase is that domestic demand is approaching pre-war levels — in part because there was pent-up demand, but also because of the summer travel season and the improving economy.** And pricing is also firming up, although some of the firming comes from the fact that the airlines have been given a break from charging the \$2.50 security surcharge.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/955533.asp?cp1=1>

10. *August 20, Aviation Now* — **California set to begin inspecting trucks crossing state lines for nuclear materials. California may soon become the first state in the nation with its own perimeter security system to routinely check for illicit nuclear material coming by truck from other states.** To keep "dirty" bombs or other radiological devices from entering the state, the California Highway Patrol plans to install radiation detectors at truck inspection stations on major highways from Oregon, Arizona and Nevada, California Homeland Security Director George Vinson said August 14. Trucks leaving the state also will be checked. **In addition, California will inspect trucks at the Mexican border, although federal Customs officers**

already check vehicles for signs of radiation. The system is expected to be in place by mid-2004. Tennessee has conducted random nuclear-material inspections on trucks from Virginia and Kentucky. Generally, states only do targeted inspections, Legler said.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_hsd_story.jsp?id=news/nuc08203.xml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

11. *August 21, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Veterinarians to help respond to foreign diseases.** The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division is launching one of the nation's first cadres of private practice veterinarians, who will help detect and respond to foreign animal disease outbreaks. The agency will begin recruitment in September for the Private Veterinary Corps (PVC). "In just the past few years, we saw how foot-and-mouth disease rocked the economy of the UK, we're seeing the effects of mad cow disease on trade between the U.S. and Canada, and we're still recovering from the outbreak of Exotic Newcastle disease in California," said Acting State Veterinarian Robert Ehlenfeldt. "Private veterinarians had a key role in detecting and combating those diseases, and today have a new role in the fight against possible terrorist threats facing agriculture and our food supply." Ehlenfeldt says veterinarians also have an ongoing role in responding to animal emergencies resulting from unintentional, intentional, or naturally caused disasters. **Members of the PVC will receive training in how to spot and report potential foreign animal diseases and in the incident command system, which is a method of organizing people and resources to respond to emergencies.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1003 &yr=2003>

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Food Sector

12. *August 21, Government Computer News* — **FDA develops strategies for safer food.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released an action plan Wednesday including strategies to confront bioterrorism and ensure the safety of food imports and the domestic food supply. A major FDA task is protecting the nation's food supply from naturally occurring and accidental contaminants as well as the possibility that pathogens could spread through the food chain as a bioterrorist weapon. To counter food safety challenges, FDA plans to adopt a risk-based import surveillance system to replace the current import program and focus efforts on the highest security and safety risks to the food supply. FDA is working with the Homeland Security Department to link its systems with Customs entry processes. **FDA is also applying a "life cycle" approach to assure food safety. For example, instead of getting a security**

snapshot at the border by examining and sampling a particular shipment, the FDA is trying to get a broader picture that covers the product's history from raw materials through production, transportation to the U.S. manufacturer or producer, storage provider, through to the consumer. This approach is intended to help spot unusual trends.

Source: http://gcen.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23225-1.html

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

13. *August 21, Atlanta Journal Constitution* — **Health corps shift.** Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced that he wants to increase the size and flexibility of the 6,000-member health corps so that the service will be better prepared for bioterrorism, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters. The Commissioned Officers Association, the union representing 70 percent of corps personnel, welcomes the idea of recruiting more doctors and nurses and modernizing the corps, Director Jerry Farrell said this week. But the group is concerned that the push for flexibility places unfair demands on researchers. The union says changes could leave some programs in jeopardy during crises. Among the requirements all officers would have to meet are Navy-based fitness tests. "We don't want to see a lab expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) driven out because he can't do the right numbers of push-ups," Farrell said. The union is also worried that scientists specializing in bioterrorism issues might be dispatched to natural disasters when a terrorist attack could suddenly require their knowledge elsewhere, he said. **CDC Director Julie Gerberding said that the transformation of the service could accommodate their concerns.** Source:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/0803/21cdccorps.html>

14. *August 21, Associated Press* — **West Nile numbers surpass 700.** West Nile virus continues to plague the central Plains, with nearly 80 percent of the nation's cases occurring in four states, federal officials said in their weekly update Thursday. **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the virus killed three people in the past week, bringing the nationwide death toll to 14. Twenty-nine states have reported a total of 715 infections, with Colorado maintaining the unwanted lead with 263 cases.** South Dakota had 117, Nebraska 99 and Texas 70, according to CDC's count. Six in Colorado have died from the mosquito-borne virus. **The CDC also said that screening of the nation's blood supply found 103 blood donors in nine states carried the virus.** Last week, the CDC said the United States was entering the peak season for West Nile activity, and the nation's tally is expected to climb rapidly in the next month.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/08/21/sprj.wnv.update.ap/>

15.

August 20, Federal Computer Week — CDC to consolidate hotlines. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plan to make it easier for the public to call a single place for information about diseases. The agency will soon release a request for proposals to merge the agency's three-dozen hotlines into one contact center. The consolidated center will bring consistency to the calls, cost savings to the agency and a single face to the public, officials said. Much of CDC's organization and funding has grown up along disease or topic lines, such as HIV/AIDS or cancer. Their call centers have as well, with each separately managed either in house or by contractors, said James Seligman, CDC's chief information officer. With the new hotline, 1-800-CDC-INFO, callers can make one call and receive answers to questions on a variety of topics, Seligman said. Callers will receive more responsiveness and consistency in the service, Seligman said. **A single center will allow for constant coverage and enhanced services, such as multilingual and hearing-impaired options, he added. A centrally-managed contact center will also let CDC officials quickly increase the number of call takers in the case of an emergency or outbreak.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0818/web-cdc-08-20-03.a.sp>

16. *August 20, Canadian Press* — **Health experts turn to China for clues to SARS.** A team of specialists returned this week from China's province of Guangdong, where they spent a week meeting local officials and visiting animal markets, farms, research centers, and hospitals. **One of the main goals was to gather information to further investigations on which animals carry the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus and could be a source of infection, said Maria Cheng, a World Health Organization (WHO) spokeswoman in Beijing. The experts also came away convinced that measures should be put into place regarding animal hygiene and how they are housed and handled in markets, Cheng said.** Medical investigators believe that it jumped from animals to humans and still could be rampant among wildlife populations. Alan Schnur, a WHO official, has said that further studies on the source need to start as soon as possible because even limited information will prove useful in fighting the disease. **"To implement SARS control and prevention measures, we need to know where it comes from. But unfortunately, a lot of question marks still remain," said Pierre Formenty of WHO. "As with other diseases, it could be years before the animal reservoir is discovered."**

Source: <http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=05BADF06-9E1D-4E15-A5A1-3769E1670883>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

17. *August 21, Government Technology* — **Charleston-area first response teams conduct full scale emergency preparedness exercise.** The South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA), Xybernaut Corp., and various law enforcement and first-responder agencies will participate in

a joint effort to further develop emergency preparedness and first response procedures for critical infrastructure in the Charleston area. **The Critical Incident Response Toolset (CIRT) allows first responders and subsequent emergency personnel to manage operations by having various types of critical information at their fingertips, including building floor plans/schematics, specific images related to a facility or site, incident command protocols and other critical response data.**

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=2003.08.21-65145>

18. *August 21, National Journal's Technology Daily* — **Congress weighs Washington, DC request for security funds.** The District of Columbia is requesting funding from Congress for emergency preparedness in the event of a terrorist attack, including cyberterrorism, but lawmakers have yet to finalize the numbers in a spending bill that they will consider when both chambers return in September. **For fiscal 2004, District officials requested \$159 million in federal funding to prepare for a terrorist attack. The money would go toward enhancing cyber and information security, as well as for software to control traffic lights during an evacuation of the area, according to Eugene Boyd, an analyst at the Congressional Research Service (CRS).** The \$159 million would include \$28 million for municipal agencies considered "critical" to security, \$18.5 million for bolstering information security and \$8 million to contain cyber terrorism with firewall protections and security architecture, according to CRS. **The District also requested \$46 million for its unified communications center, which is designed to coordinate communications among local, state and federal emergency workers during a regional or national crisis.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0803/082103td1.htm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

19. *August 21, Government Computer News* — **Hackers compromise Navy purchase cards.** Hackers recently broke into a Navy system and gained access to 13,000 Navy purchase cards, according to Department of Defense (DoD) officials who are investigating the incident. The DoD Purchase Card Program Management Office has issued a release stating that **the Navy has cancelled all of its purchase card accounts—about 22,000—to minimize the number of unauthorized purchases,** and is working closely with the issuing company, Citibank. "Emergency purchases are being handled on a case-by-case basis to fully support Navy requirements," according to the statement. A DoD team is working to determine how hackers gained access to the system and what needs to be done to fix the breach. A Defense Criminal Investigative team is also pursuing the investigation.

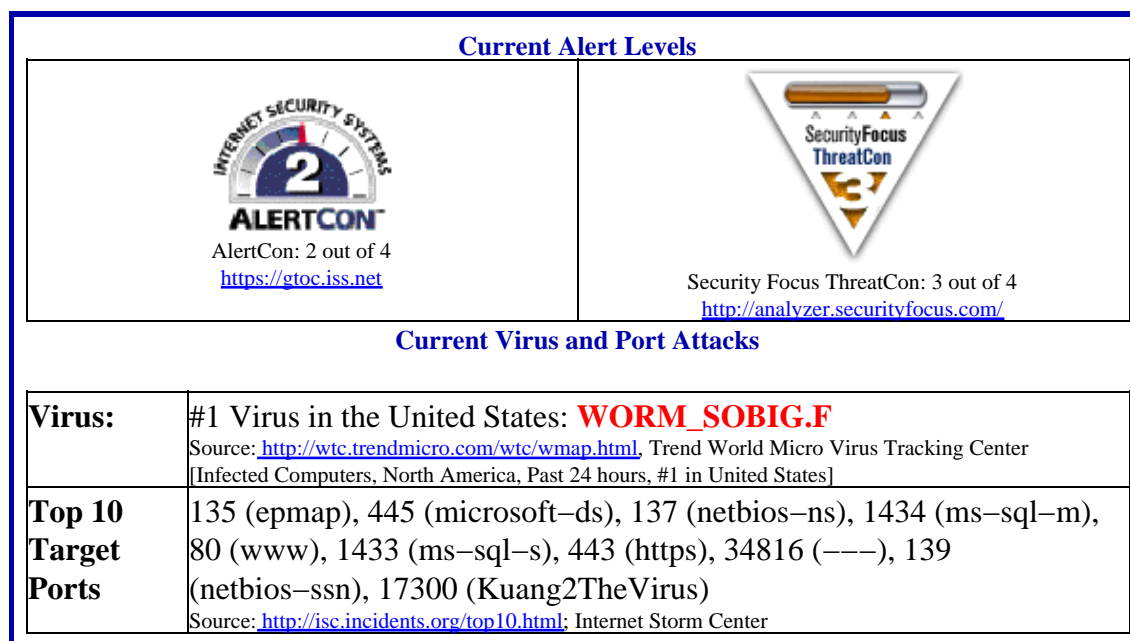
Source: http://gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23217-1.html

20. *August 21, eWEEK* — **Oracle XDB flaws open door for hackers.** The XDB (XML Database) in Oracle Corp.'s Oracle9i Database Release 2 has a set of potential buffer overflows that a smart attacker could exploit to cause a denial-of-service (DoS) attack or to capture an active user session on Oracle9iM. To exploit the weaknesses, an authenticated database user is required, or the FTP and HTTP servers must be enabled in the XML database. The vulnerabilities are "highly susceptible" to an insider attack that originates on a corporate intranet if users ignore best practices for secure database configuration. To minimize risk,

Oracle recommends disabling the FTP and HTTP servers in the XML database. Those are both installed and enabled by default and can't be turned on or off individually. **A patch is available on the Oracle Website:** <http://metalink.oracle.com/>
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.3959.1227332.00.asp>

21. *August 21, Government Computer News* — **Patch management on the way for Veterans Affairs.** The Veterans Affairs (VA) Department expects to roll out an aggressive patch management system over the next year, the department's head of cyber and information security said Wednesday, August 21 at a conference in Washington DC. The need became apparent during the current waves of worms swamping the Internet, Bruce Brody said. Although **the anti-virus structure protected VA systems from the MSBlaster worm** that exploits a remote procedure call vulnerability in Microsoft Windows operating systems, many VA systems were not patched to correct the underlying problem. **The Good Samaritan variant that exploits and apparently patches that vulnerability penetrated VA defenses this week.**
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23206-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

22. *August 21, Tucson Citizen (AZ)* — **Arrests made in theft of explosives from University of Arizona mining lab.** Two juvenile boys and their mother were arrested on Wednesday, August 20, in connection with the theft of explosives from a University of Arizona mining research lab. Most of the explosives have been recovered. Thirty-four sticks and 11 tubes of dynamite and a cylindrical primer were stolen, according to Sigberto Celaya, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Investigators found most of the explosives yesterday at the bottom of an estimated 300-foot-deep mine shaft about a

quarter-mile from the family's house. A caller tipped off the investigators Tuesday, August 19, prompting them to obtain a search warrant for the family's house. No motive has been established.

Source: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=local&story_id=082103c5_explosive_arrest

23. *August 21, Reuters* — **Korean games on chemical terror alert. Police tightened security at the world university games in South Korea on Thursday, August 21, after a tip-off that Islamic radicals could launch a chemical weapons attack on the venues.** More than 7,000 athletes and officials from more than 170 countries are set to participate in the event, including 137 athletes from the United States and 99 from Britain. Police had heightened surveillance and stepped up checks on vehicles around venues in Taegu city in response to the alert, the South Korean Environment Ministry said in a news release. The Environment Ministry said **an anti-terrorist squad, including a special chemical-weapons team, would be in place to respond to any attack** during the games but that the extra measures were just precautionary. **A no-fly zone was set up around Taegu World Cup Stadium** for Thursday's opening ceremony, while air traffic has been restricted to regular commercial flights over venues until the games end on August 31. On the ground, **police have restricted the access of vehicles carrying dangerous materials within three miles of the venues.**

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/20030821-0400-sport-games-university-terror.html>

24. *August 21, Associated Press* — **France's heat-related deaths spark call for reform. As many as 10,000 people may have died in France's heat wave, the government acknowledged Thursday, and a solemn President Jacques Chirac promised health system changes. But he also leveled a criticism at the public, saying many elderly victims "died alone in their homes."** Chirac, under fire from opposition politicians and newspapers for not speaking out earlier, promised "everything will be done" to correct failings in the health system that was overwhelmed by victims of the heat. But his government said ministers would not resign. **While praising emergency, hospital and retirement home workers, Chirac peppered his address to the nation with criticism of a society he said needs to better care for its most vulnerable members.** "The heat wave touched the health and daily lives of the French. It caused a large number of victims," Chirac said after a Cabinet meeting on the crisis. "Many fragile people died alone in their homes. These dramas again shed light on the solitude of many of our aged or handicapped citizens."

Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/Intl/AP.V8317.AP-Europe-Heat-Wav.html

25. *August 20, U.S. Department of State* — **Travel Advisory: Yemen. The security threat to all U.S. citizens in Yemen remains high due to continuing efforts by al Qaeda to re-constitute an effective operating base.** This could lead to possible attacks by extremist individuals or groups against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses and perceived interests. **U.S. citizens in Yemen should maintain a high level of vigilance,** avoid crowds and demonstrations, keep a low profile, vary times and routes for all travel, and ensure travel documents are current. The Embassy in Sanaa advises American citizens in Yemen to exercise particular caution at locations frequented by foreigners, such as the Sanaa Trade Center, American-affiliated franchises, restaurants and shops in the Haddah area in Sanaa and in Aden and elsewhere, at

restaurants and hotels frequented by expatriates.

Source: http://travel.state.gov/yemen_warning.html

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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